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CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE AGENCY3014535 **h****TELETYPED INFORMATION REPORT**

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31 OCT 56

PRECEDENCE
☒ **ROUTINE**

COUNTRY
EAST GERMANY/HUNGARY/POLAND

SUBJECT
EAST GERMAN REACTION TO HUNGARIAN AND POLISH UPRISINGS

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1. THE LEIPZIG POPULATION IS REACTING WITH AN ALMOST UNNATURAL CALM TO THE HUNGARIAN DEVELOPMENTS. SINCE THE EAST GERMAN PRESS AND RADIO ARE GIVING NO PICTURE OR A DISTORTED ONE, EVERYONE LISTENS TO WESTERN BROADCASTS. THE POPULATION IS THUS QUITE WELL INFORMED. THERE IS VERY LITTLE PUBLIC DISCUSSION OF THESE EVENTS, BUT FRIENDS ALL OVER TOWN ARE GETTING TOGETHER TO EXPRESS THEIR SATISFACTION.

2. EVEN RELIABLE SOCIALIST UNITY PARTY (SED) FUNCTIONARIES NOW LISTEN REGULARLY TO WESTERN BROADCASTS AND DISCUSS HUNGARIAN EVENTS WITH TRUSTED FRIENDS. THE GENERAL TENSOR OF THESE DISCUSSIONS IS APPREHENSION THAT DEVELOPMENTS OF THIS TYPE MIGHT COME TO EAST GERMANY, AND DOUBT OF THE VIABILITY OF THE SOVIET SYSTEM ALTOGETHER. 50X1-HUM

3. ON 26 OCTOBER, THE SED GROUP AT LEIPZIG UNIVERSITY HELD A SPECIAL MEETING. A MEMBER [REDACTED] DEMANDED THAT ALL SENIOR MEMBERS MUST IMMEDIATELY DETERMINE THE TEMPER OF THE LEIPZIG POPULATION, PARTICULARLY THAT OF STUDENTS. HE STATED THAT ANYONE KNOWN TO BE MAKING ANTI-REGIME STATEMENTS OR CALLING FOR THE RESIGNATION OF ULBRICHT

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MUST BE ARRESTED. ANY AND ALL FORMS OF RESISTANCE MUST BE BROKEN WITH WHATEVER DEGREE OF BRUTALITY IS NECESSARY. TWO OTHER SED FUNCTIONARIES ENDORSED THESE STATEMENTS AND DECLARED THAT "THE BEST ENEMY IS A DEAD ENEMY." [REDACTED] COMMENT: SED 50X1-HUM

FUNCTIONARIES AT THE MEETING WERE IN NEAR PANIC, SHOWING TO WHAT DEGREE LATEST DEVELOPMENTS IN POLAND AND PARTICULARLY HUNGARY HAVE AFFECTED SED LEADERSHIP EVEN IN THE INTELLECTUAL ATMOSPHERE AT LEIPZIG UNIVERSITY.)

4. ON 24 OCTOBER, THE FDGB (LABOR UNION LEAGUE) LEADERS AT LEIPZIG UNIVERSITY MET TO PREPARE FOR THE FORTHCOMING FDGB ELECTIONS THERE. EVEN THOUGH THE MEETING WAS ATTENDED ONLY BY FUNCTIONARIES AND ALL KNEW THAT THE OTHERS WERE INFORMED OF HUNGARIAN DEVELOPMENTS, NO ONE DARED TO DISCUSS THEM. HERBERT STAUDTE REQUESTED THAT IN CONFORMITY WITH BASIC EAST GERMAN LAW FDGB ELECTIONS BE HELD WITH SECRET BALLOT. THIS PROPOSAL WAS ACCEPTED UNANIMOUSLY. [REDACTED] COMMENT: FDGB ELECTIONS IN THE PAST HAVE ALWAYS BEEN HELD WITH OPEN BALLOTS. THE CHANGE IN PROCEDURE INDICATES THE EFFECT OF THE POLISH AND HUNGARIAN DEVELOPMENTS. 50X1-HUM

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END OF MESSAGE

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